

Issues regarding the Use of Commissaries and “comfort stations” by Non-combatants

Author: Japanese Consulate General in Nanjing, China

Date: 1938

File: History of Consular Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Consulate General of Japan in Nanjing

Locations: China

Keywords: Management and supervision

Annotation Source: Northeast Asian History Foundation

Annotation Link:

http://contents.nahf.or.kr/item/item.do?levelId=iswc.d_001_0020_1090

Annotation:

This document is part of a report on the meeting between the officials from the Ministry of the Army, the Navy, and Foreign Affairs regarding permissions and regulations of various businesses run by Japanese residents in China. The attendees included [from the Army] Col Senda (Commanding Officer of the Supply Department), LtCol Kurisu (Staff Officer, 3rd division), Medical Officer/LtCol Takahara (Medical Corps, 3rd division), Major Onishi (Secret Military Agency in Nanjing), LtCol Oyama, Captain Horikawa and 1st Lt Kitahara (Military Police); [from the Navy] Col Nakahara (Navy attaché), LtCol Ueno (Captain of the gunboat ‘Saga’); and [from the Consulate General Office] Hanawa (Consul General), Tanaka (Consul), Shimizu (Chief of Police), and Sasaki (Assistant Police Officer).

Among the major decisions made during the meeting, Clause no. 6 concerns to “issues regarding the use of commissaries and “comfort stations” by non-combatants.” The clause reads as follows: “The Consulate shall not intervene in matters relating to the military commissaries and ‘comfort stations’ which exclusively belong to the Army or the Navy as these facilities are directly managed and supervised by the Army and the Navy. However, the Consulate shall oversee the regulations of commissaries and ‘comfort stations’ that are open to civilians; and the Military Police shall supervise military personnel and civilian employees who use the facilities. When necessary, the Military Police may conduct on-site inspection or impose certain regulations at any time...”

The clause proceeds to say that “‘comfort stations’ that will later be set up under the guidance of the Logistics Unit for exclusive military use shall be subject to the supervision of the Military Police. With respect to the “comfort stations” that already exist, the Logistics Unit shall incorporate part of them into the military-exclusive “comfort stations,” and leave the rest of facilities for the civilian residents’ convenience. The abovementioned matters will be decided by consultation among the relevant authorities. Once the commissaries and the ‘comfort stations’ for exclusive military use (both for the Army and the Navy) are approved, the concerned authorities of the Military Police shall frequently report to the Consulate Office on business status and the comfort stations operators’ information including place of family register, address, name, age, birth, and death, and other notable changes in their status.”

This document verifies the division of responsibilities and cooperation between the Japanese military and the Consulate Office for the supervision and regulation of the Japanese military “comfort stations.”

Sources:

WAM Collection (Foreign Affairs_109)

Collection of the Asian Women's Fund, Vol. 1, pp. 479-482.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 111-112.

Sourcebook by Yoshimi, pp. 177-180.

Notes:

The title of the document varies depending on collections. This annotation adopts the title from the WAM collection. The same document in the Collection of the Asian Women's Fund is entitled, "Excerpts from 'History of Consular Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Consulate General of Japan in Nanjing. Locations: China.'"

In the Sourcebook Vol. 1 edited by Suzuki et al., it is entitled, "Legal issues regarding permissions and regulations of the Japanese residents' businesses under the jurisdiction of the Army, the Navy, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs." The Sourcebook edited by Yoshimi titled the document "Decisions from the trilateral meeting between the Army, the Navy, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding permissions and regulations of the Japanese residents' businesses (April 16, 1938)."